

THE GROWTH OF TRAVEL

(The Great Highways of Traffic Which Were Laid Out by the Indians on Their Marches.)

HORSE SURVEYED A ROAD

The Seaboard Air Line Follows Almost the Same Route as the Early Traders to the Indians.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BASKERVILLE, VA., Feb. 6.—The subject of better transportation facilities and internal improvement of highways has been one of vital interest to the citizens of Mecklenburg county since the days of her earliest white settlers. The olden borders on the North Carolina line, being situated on both sides of the Roanoke river 130 miles west of the ocean and 80 miles south of Richmond. Few people had more to be thankful for, were more independent and altogether better fixed than the old-time settlers of a Roanoke river plantation. The greatest trouble to mar his pleasure was the transportation of his produce to market and traveling thither himself.

Soon after the Revolutionary War the Virginia Legislature granted a charter to the "Roanoke River Transportation Company" to conduct "The Roanoke River Lottery Company" for the purpose of making money to spend towards making the Roanoke river navigable. The Lottery Company proved a failure, so did the Navigation Company, and to this day the Roanoke remains unnavigable west of Weldon.

In olden times many a candidate for Congress from this district has helped his chances with the people of Mecklenburg by promising if elected he would do something to have the national government take an interest in making appropriations towards making the Roanoke navigable.

COL. BYRD'S DIARY.

I have seen a printed copy of a diary kept by Col. Wm. Byrd copied from the Westover manuscripts, in which he gives a minute description of the route taken by him and some friends up the Roanoke and Dan rivers in the fall of 1733. The route taken was evidently first an old Indian trail, in fact used by the Indians then, and is undoubtedly practically the same as is the present public road paralleling the Roanoke from the Brunswick line to opposite the present site of Clarksville.

Perhaps one of the longest straight old thoroughfares in Virginia is what is commonly known as "Cox Road," which was used for many years by not only the early settlers of this and intermediate sections, but many settlers of northern North Carolina as well, as a thoroughfare for rolling and hauling their produce to Petersburg.

A UNIQUE SURVEY.

It is believed that this thoroughfare was originally surveyed in the following manner: A Mr. Cox, father of John Cox, Esq., one of the first magistrates appointed when Mecklenburg was formed as a new county in 1748, was one of the early settlers of the western section of the county, purchased a fine horse bred by a gentleman living on the Appomattox river near the present site of Petersburg. A short time after getting the horse home he got out the stable one night and left. There had recently fallen a heavy snow through which the missing horse could easily be tracked. Fearful that it might stray out of all habitation and that the owner might melt in the meantime, so he would have difficulty in finding his way back, Mr. Cox provided himself with a hatchet, and whilst following the runaway horse's track would occasionally blaze a tree as he rode past. The pursued horse having a good start, was not overtaken until its original home on the Appomattox was reached. Mr. Cox returned home the same route he went. Afterwards other settlers guided by the blazed tree rode this route until a trail was made and finally a road. It is thought that the natural instinct of this horse enabled it to return to its former home by this direct route which had never been traveled before.

There are citizens now living in Mecklenburg who have had their tobacco rolled all the way to Petersburg over Cox road in hogheads. The hog-head staves being made of oak timber generally three-fourths of an inch thick, confined with good white oak hoops, and overrun with felles at each end, the shafts being confined by pivots in the centre of each head, which was the centre of the felles on which the hogheads rolled. In this way one horse would some time carry a 1,500 or 1,800 pound hoghead all the way to Petersburg. But generally two or more teams were sent together, so at steep hills they would be able to "double up," i. e. hitch one horse in front of the other—tandem team fashion—until the top of the hill was reached.

A FAMOUS ROAD.

The oldest thoroughfare known to have passed through this section of the State was the famous Trading Path, which was originally the great Indian trail over which the Northern and Southern Indians traded when they wished to communicate with one another or wage battle in their most everlasting wars on each other. It was on this thoroughfare in the county of Brunswick that Governor Spotswood established "Fort Christiana" in 1714.

In Byrd's history of the dividing line between Virginia and North Carolina, in 1738, the following description is given of this thoroughfare: "Five miles east of Great (now Smith) Creek we crossed the Trading Path, which received its name from being the route the traders take with their caravans when they go to traffic with the Catawbas and other Southern Indians. The Catawbas live about 250 miles south of the Roanoke on

MONDAY'S OFFERINGS

Hold many charms for those who wish to make some good savings and at the same time get goods that will please. The different departments contain short lots and some full assortments that we wish to clear out, for spring goods are arriving and we need the room.

MONDAY'S REMNANTS

Are good values and we have a wide and varied assortment of them. For an instance:
A remnant in Flannelettes that were originally worth 10c. and 12½c., now 6½c. a yard.
The Dress Goods Remnants offer as good, and in some instances, even better chances for stretching your dollar.
There are others also including Percales, Calicoes, Gingham, Corded Madras and others we have not room to mention here, but offer just as great opportunities as money saving.

WALKING SKIRT SPECIAL.

We've a specially purchased lot of Walking Skirts in Oxford grays that we will sell according to the way they were bought. That was very low—the price is \$1 each.

SHEETING.

Bleached Sheeting. In the quality you usually pay 25c., our price is 20c. yard. Other grades at 18c., 25c., 30c., per yard.
Unbleached Sheeting at 20c. and 25c. a yard.
A small lot of Linen Finished Pillow Cases that we are going to sell at 10c.
Others at 12½c., 15c., 18c. each.
A lot of Bolster Cases, size 12x72 inches, at 25c. each.

HOSIERY.

The famous "No-Mend" brand, the best Hose made for children, 25c. a pair.
A lot of Ladies' Hose that you usually pay more for, 10c. a pair.
A small lot of Ladies' Dropstitched Hose to go at 5c. a pair.
A special lot of Fancy Hose to go at three pence for 25c.
The "Bent's All" Double Knee Stocking for children's wear, 10c. a pair.
A small lot of Men's Socks, in gray, tan and blue, 5c. a pair.
Men's White Foot Socks, at 10c.

TOWELS.

We've a few Towels, slightly soiled from being shown, a value that sold for 25c., now 19c. each.
Just a few Laundry Bags to go at 60c. each.
A small lot of Bath Rugs, at \$1.00 each.
A small lot of Table Napkins, in pink and blue borders, 8c. each.

READY-MADE GARMENTS.

What's left in this department we are closing out at a discount of 33-1-3 per cent.

MEN'S TIE SPECIAL.

We purchased a special lot from a firm that was selling out. They are not all up to the minute styles, but they are presentable and we are going to sell them at the wonderfully rock bottom price of 5c. each.

W. A. CHEATWOOD, 1509, 1511, 1513 EAST MAIN STREET.

the Santee river (now the Catawba in South Carolina). The common method of carrying on this Indian commerce is as follows: Gentlemen send for goods proper for such trade from England, and then either venture them out at their own risk to the Indian towns, or else credit some traders of substance and reputation with them, to be paid in skins at a fixed price agreed on. These wares are made up into packs carried on horses, each load being from 150 to 200 pounds, with which they are able to travel about twenty miles a day if the horses are well managed. Formerly a hundred horses have been employed in one of these Indian caravans under the conduct of fifteen or sixteen persons only, but now the trade is so much impaired, inasmuch they seldom go more than half that number.

Then, he gives a description of this then great thoroughfare, which is practically the same as is the present route of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.

Finally after the country had become more thickly settled the inland commerce and travel between the North and the South after passing Richmond southward was divided into two internal routes—The Eastern route, passing Petersburg and crossing the Roanoke at Weldon, then passing Tarboro, Newbern, Wilmington, Georgetown, Charleston, Savannah, and on southwards; the Western route from Richmond crossing the Roanoke in the vicinity of Taylor's Ferry, and passing Williamsboro, Hillsboro, Guilford, Salem, Salisbury, Charlotte, Camden, Columbia, Augusta, Ga., and other points further South, and the old Trading Path was abandoned.

THE KING'S FORD.

During the Revolutionary War, after the battle of Guilford Courthouse, in the spring of 1781, on Cornwallis's march to Richmond to join Arnold, a detachment of his soldiers marching the Western route forded the Roanoke between what is now "Long Grass" and "Cuscowilla" plantations. Since then this point on the river has been known as "The King's Ford."

In the spring of 1701, when President Washington took his Southern tour from the seat of government, then at Philadelphia, to Savannah after leaving Richmond, he went via the Eastern route, and returned by the Western route, crossing the Roanoke at Taylor's Ferry, which is three miles above "The King's Ford." For some years there seems to have been some rivalry between the two inland routes, but the Eastern route being the more level, was mostly traveled.

In 1812 John Chesterfield Goode, one of the members of the House of Delegates from Mecklenburg, was the patron of a bill which lacked but a few votes of becoming a law, providing for the appropriation of a money by the Commonwealth of Virginia sufficient to build a good highway from the North Carolina line near Williamsboro via Taylor's Ferry on the Roanoke to Manchester. Some bright years later the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad was built, which was the death knell of the Western route.

In 1822, when the Randolph-Macon College was opened at Boydton, some enterprising citizens of Brunswick county began the operation of a tri-weekly stage line, with a contract for carrying the government's mail from Bellfield, on the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad, and Boydton, traveling via Lawrenceville, and entering Mecklenburg county on the Piney Pond road, thence running by the present sites of Lacroix, Dockery, Lombardy Grove, Union Level, old Plain View, then crossing Allen's Creek at Ferrall's old bridge and entering Boydton just west of the present site of Dr. Atkin's dwelling. This stage line was run successfully for a number of years.

In 1840 Col. C. S. Hutchison, Mecklenburg's representative in the House of

Delegates, was the patron of a bill which was enacted, chartering "The Boydton & Petersburg Plankroad," which was operated for several years as a toll road, daily trips being made by stage coaches both ways between Boydton and Petersburg; the stage horses being changed for fresh ones at each relay station, which were generally about twelve miles apart. A few years before the Civil war a branch railroad was run from Manson, a station on the old Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, to Clarksville, when Mr. Alfred Boyd, one of Boydton's most enterprising citizens, was the chief mover in having a plankroad built from Boydton to Clarksville, which killed the Boydton & Petersburg road. During the latter part of the Civil war, when steel and iron were so scarce, the Confederate government had all the rails and spikes taken up on this Clarksville branch railroad and carried to Richmond to be made into horse-shoes, etc., for the use of the army. The railroad has never since been used. Though Mecklenburg now has three railroads, namely: A branch line of the Southern running from Keysville to Durham; the old Atlantic & Danville, and the Seaboard Air Line.

So it seems that for some time after the country was first settled up all the inland commerce and travel between the North and South was done over one then great thoroughfare. Now we have three great trunk line roads between the ocean and mountains carrying on the great Eastern commerce and travel betwixt the North and South. The Atlantic Coast Line crossing the Roanoke at Weldon, and practically following the course of the old Eastern route; the Seaboard Air Line crossing the Roanoke within a stone's throw of the mouth of Great (now Smith's) Creek and running very nearly the old route of the Trading Path; and the great Southern, following the course of habitation, wended her course westward and crossing the upper waters of the Roanoke over the Dan at Danville.

H. F. H.

Concert at Oak Grove.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BELOYNA, VA., Feb. 6.—The intermediate concert of Oak Grove Academy was given Wednesday evening. The Assembly Hall was artistically decorated in white and green, the academy colors, and a large audience enjoyed a well rendered programme.

Miss Birdie Baugh is spending two winter in St. Augustine, Fla.
Dr. M. B. Rudd, of Richmond, spent Sunday with his father, Mr. W. T. Rudd.
Miss Emma Justice, of Dry Bridge, is visiting her old school-mates at Oak Grove Academy.
Mr. Bernay Druen, of Richmond, is spending a few days at Mr. E. A. Baugh's home.

For the Davis Monument.

The following amounts have been received by the treasurer of the Jefferson Davis Monument Association since her last report:

United Daughters of the Confederacy, contribution made at Charleston, S. C. \$1,000.00
Mrs. M. R. M. Rosenberg 20.00
Black Horse Chapter, through Miss Mary A. Smith 10.00
A. E. Reese Chapter, Kentucky 10.00
Camp Sea Island, S. C. 5.00
Mrs. A. T. Smythe, Charleston, S. C. 4.00
Mrs. White 1.00

A NEW PLAN OF FARMING

Northern Neck Land Owners Determined to be Independent of Uncertain Negro Labor.

SUIT CROP TO OWN EFFORTS

Woman Drops Dead While Securing Medicine From Her Physician.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
HEATHSVILLE, VA., Feb. 6.—For several years the farmers of this section have been considering and discussing the advisability of changing their methods of work and adopting a system better suited to the conditions of the present time. Many things have occurred to make some change necessary, chief among these being the scarcity and uncertainty of labor during the crop season. It often happens that when the farmer has "pitched" a large crop and is in pressing need of competent help, the laborer either goes North or demands higher wages than the farmer can afford to pay for ordinary farm work, and then the crop must either be slighted to such a degree as to greatly reduce the yield or cultivated at a cost far in excess of its market value. This condition of affairs has been steadily growing worse for the past ten years.

THE TENANT SYSTEM.
Some years ago a tenant system was adopted as a remedy for this labor evil—system of farming on "shares," the landlord furnishing the land and team and the tenant furnishing the labor. This system, however, has become so objectionable to many that it has been practically done away with.

Several farmers started a new plan last year of raising just such sized crops as they themselves could cultivate without being dependent on dry laborers for aid, and the results were such that it is probable that at least three-fourths of the farmers of this county will adopt this plan during the coming season.

It is believed by many that this system has many advantages. The cultivation of a smaller area will enable the farmer not only to practice such thoroughness as will increase the yield per acre, but also to divide his farm into more fields than formerly, and thus rest the worn-out soil grow grass and raise cattle and sheep more extensively.

OYSTERSMAN'S LEAGUE.
Messrs. B. S. Hammonds and R. F. Meekins, who are traveling around organizing oystersmen's protective unions, attempted to establish a station in Reidsville recently, but owing to the shortness of the notice and the intense cold on the appointed night, very few were in attendance, and they all belonged to the Fishermen's Union, so that the attempt amounted to nothing.

Mahaley Banks (colored) dropped dead suddenly in the middle of the road while procuring medicine from Dr. J. A. Rice. Her death was caused by heart trouble. An unusually large number of colored citizens living near this place have died recently, five have died within a radius of three miles of this place during last week. The local doctor has said that weather is the cause of this.

Capt. I. M. Bussels, of Wicomico, is visiting in Norfolk and Richmond this week.
Mr. J. E. Betts, one of the most prominent citizens of the county, who was severely ill during the past week of typhoid pneumonia, and for several days was at death's door, is now rapidly recovering his strength.

Messrs. F. G. McWhitt, B. S. Hammonds, the Hon. and Robert George, of Irvington, are in Richmond last week in the interest of the oystersmen.

PETERSBURG Y. M. C. A.

Large Additions and Improvements to the Gymnasium.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
PETERSBURG, VA., Feb. 6.—The Petersburg branch of the Young Men's Christian Association is planning large additions and improvements to its equipment. Back of the present quarters in North Sycamore Street, a commodious gymnasium, to be supplied with modern outfit, is now under course of construction. The gymnasium will accommodate at least 75 men on the floor at one time, thus permitting the three classes to work at the same time. Surrounding the space for the classes will be erected seats for several hundred persons, for use on public occasions. The bowling alleys will be placed in the gymnasium for the use of members. The home of the association is already a handsome one, having cost in the neighborhood of \$4,000.

The officers and directors are the following: President, T. J. Jefferson, president; Judge J. M. Mullen, vice-president; R. J. Spratley, secretary; Hugh R. Smith, treasurer; W. J. Kibby, general secretary; Lee O. W. Bonham, assistant secretary; R. O. Egan, W. H. Chesnut, George V. Harrison, H. O'Kennon, Bartlett Honer, Dr. J. Gordon Renno, R. W. Pritchard, John McS. Buchanan, C. A. Jordan, Wm. M. Rucker, R. B. Davis.

The association is equipped with an auditorium with a seating capacity of 700, in which the Sunday afternoon meetings are held, and the association star course entertainments given; a reading room supplied with the leading publications; a well-selected library; a game room supplied with the best games to be secured; three bowling alleys; educational class rooms; well-organized basketball teams. There is a music parlor and a male chorus and an orchestra composed of the leading musicians of the city. Each year a camping party is organized and spends several days at some desirable location.

At no time in its history have the various departments been in better condition than at the present.

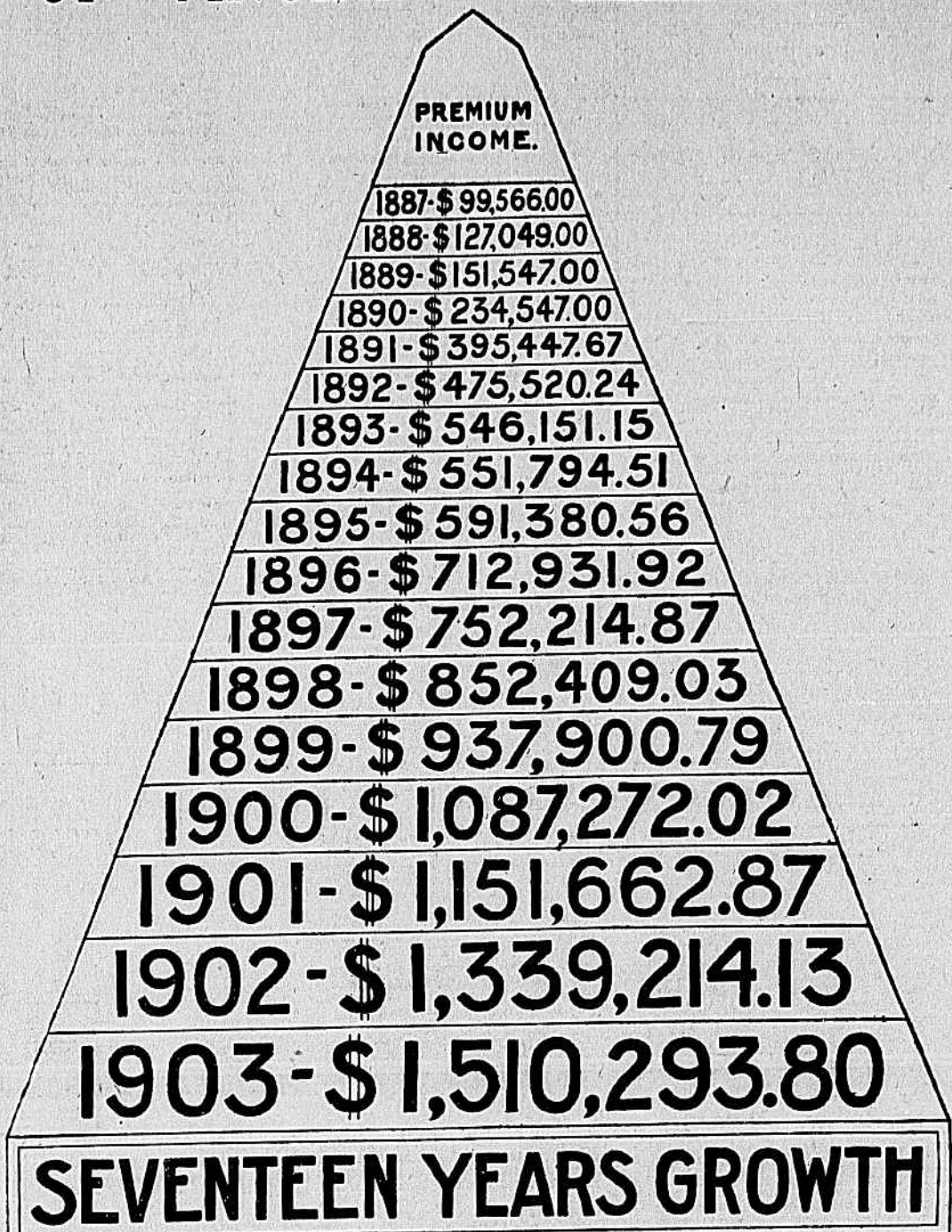
DUEL IN STARLIGHT; HELD UP BY THUGS

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
MEDIA, Pa., Feb. 6.—Robert Drake, of Rockdale, had a terrible encounter with two highwaymen near Village Green, and it is remarkable that he was not killed. He was on his way home from the latter place and was attacked in a lonely spot near Mount Alverno Station. When told to hold up his hands, Drake pulled a revolver from his pocket and began to fire. The two highwaymen returned the shots in the dark, no less than ten shots being fired.

Drake's assailants took refuge in a wood. One of them was evidently shot for blood spots were on the snow from the point where the attack took place. The woodsman Drake says that several of the bullets whizzed close to his head.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

Established 1871



ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1903.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Real estate, book value.....	\$ 61,998 17	Reserve, actuaries 4 per cent. and American 3 per cent., including special reserve.....	\$1,193,178 00
Mortgage loans on real estate.....	948,249 96	Death losses reported, but not due.....	14,455 00
Loans on collateral.....	89,476 03	Premiums paid in advance.....	26,558 02
Loans on company's policies.....	13,775 18	All other liabilities.....	1,353 00
Bonds and stocks, book value.....	182,482 52		
Cash in banks and office.....	135,424 19	Total.....	\$1,235,541 02
Interest receivable.....	6,038 89		
Interest and rents due and accrued.....	19,371 80		
Market value of real estate, bonds and stocks, over book value.....	30,817 81		
Net uncollected and deferred premiums and premium notes.....	53,769 91		
All other items.....	8,059 67		
Gross assets.....	\$1,570,468 03		
Deduct assets not admitted and ledger liabilities.....	5,083 70	Surplus to policyholders.....	229,873 31
Total admitted assets.....	\$1,565,414 33	Total.....	\$1,565,414 33

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DURING 1903.

Gross Income.....	\$ 1,570,359.51
Increase in Gross Income.....	182,111.35
Increase in Assets.....	294,033.62
INSURANCE IN FORCE.....	\$39,717,431.00
Increase in Insurance in Force.....	\$5,301,100.00
Total Number of Policies in Force.....	338,906
Increase in Number of Policies in Force.....	30,239
Death Claims, etc., Paid to Policy-Holders.....	\$491,862.87

TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POLICY-HOLDERS SINCE ORGANIZATION, \$5,505,996.68

J. C. WALKER, President.

T. WM. PEMBERTON, First Vice-President. J. W. PEGRAM, Second Vice-President.
W. L. T. ROGERSON, Secretary.

JULIA JORDAN GOT FOUR MONTHS

Sent Down for Stealing a Brooch and Ring—Other Cases Before His Honor.

Justice John went for the dardies yesterday, "I'm going to stop giving you fellows another chance," he said; "You take advantage of it too quick."
Then he sent Joseph Feldner and W. A. Jones down for ten days each for being drunk.
Julia Jordan got four months for taking a brooch and a ring belonging to M. L. Hoffbauer.
Thomas Richardson was dismissed of the charge of taking coal from the Chesapeake and Ohio.
Nat Nelson was charged with being

a suspicious character. The charge will be investigated on the 9th.
Etta Allen paid \$5 for being drunk and disorderly.

Dr. Calisch on Wandering Jew.
Dr. Calisch has kindly consented to report his lecture, "The Wandering Jew," for the benefit of the Rosemary Library, on the 18th instant. Those who have had the pleasure of hearing this lecture give it unstinted praise. The friends and patrons of the library are urged to show their interest in this worthy institution in this her hour of need, as well as their appreciation of the kindness and generosity of Dr. Calisch by coming in large numbers, bringing their friends with them. An intellectual and a delightful evening are assured. The place and hour will be announced later in the week.

Lawyers Must Be There.
The docket will be called in the Law and Equity Court Monday morning at 11 o'clock, and cases will be fixed for hearing. Judge Ingram expresses the hope that all attorneys who have cases will be present.

ANY TRAMP

Can slush on cheap paint, but it won't last. It's economy in the end to have your house painted with the best materials and most competent workmen. It may be a little higher in price, but it costs less in the end. Let me give you an estimate.

HARGROVE, The Painter.
Phone 2848. 810 E. Franklin St.

The Valentine Museum,
ELEVENTH AND CLAY STREETS
OPEN 10 A. M. TO 5 P. M.
ADMISSION 25c.
FREE ON SATURDAYS

that all attorneys who have cases will be present.

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CANDY CATHARTIC
THEY WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP
ANNUAL SALE—TEN MILLION BOXES
Greatest in the World

A MILLION AMERICAN BOUNCING BABIES are kept crowing with the delight of living because their mamas have learned to use CASCARETS Candy Cathartic. Neighboring neighbors tell each other of CASCARETS and the kind words said have created a sale of over A MILLION BOXES A MONTH. It is easy to protect infants against children's complaints, because all these perils have their beginning in stomach and bowels, and we have in CASCARETS a perfect medicine that will always keep the delicate machinery in a child's body clean, regular and in working order. Children like the little candy tablet and are able to take it all at once, bowels, blood and skin diseases. All druggists, 10c, 25c, 50c. Never sold in bulk. Genuine tablet stamped C C C. Sample and booklet free.
Address STERLING REMEDY CO., Chicago or New York. 610